

antigen to the patient, wherein the tumor antigen is expressed in the patient's cancerous or neoplastic tissues.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the flt-3 ligand is soluble human flt-3 ligand.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the **tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said antigen.**

45. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the **tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.**

46. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the **tumor** antigen is administered prior to administering Flt3-L.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the **tumor** antigen is administered concurrently with administering Flt3-L.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the **tumor** antigen is administered after administering Flt3-L.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the **tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said antigen.**

50. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the **tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.**

51. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the **tumor** antigen is administered prior to administering Flt3-L.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the **tumor** antigen is administered concurrently with administering Flt3-L.

53. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the **tumor** antigen is administered after administering Flt3-L.

54. (Amended) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering Flt3-L to the patient, isolating dendritic cells from the patient, exposing the dendritic cells to a **tumor** antigen, and administering the dendritic cells to the patient, **wherein the tumor antigen is expressed in the patient's cancerous or neoplastic tissues.**

55. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the **tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said antigen.**

56. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the **tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.**

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit the following Amendment and Reply in response to the second and Final Office action, having a mailing date of January 30, 2001.

Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Independent claims 6, 20 and 54 have been amended to specify that the antigen being administered is a *tumor* antigen, and therefore, no longer encompass "any molecule" that may induce an immune response, and that *the tumor antigen is expressed in the patient's cancerous or neoplastic tissues*. Claims 44, 49 and 55 have been amended to specify that the *tumor* antigen is in the form of a *tumor cell bearing said antigen*, and claims 45, 50 and 56 have been amended to specify that the *tumor* antigen is in the form of *an isolated tumor antigen*; also, claims 46-47 and 51-53 have been amended to specify that a *tumor* antigen is being administered. Support for the